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LB 833, 963, 1023

schools are those recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association and approved by the Department of Health, Regulation and Licensure. Graduates of foreign academies are effectively eliminated from obtaining licensure in Nebraska. The new language in Section 8, on page 9, would add certification by the American Veterinary Medical Association Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates that the candidate has demonstrated knowledge and skill equivalent to a graduate of an accredited program to the means by which a licensed applicant may obtain a license. LB 1023 incorporated the provisions of LB 963, my bill, to provide for the licensure of veterinary technicians as well. These provisions are included within the amendment. Currently, veterinary technicians are not recognized as an independent licensed profession in Nebraska. We currently provide for a method of joint certification, meaning that the veterinarian is certified to use an animal technician, and the technician is certified to work for the veterinarian. One of the disadvantages with this system is the lack of transferability of credentials should the technician wish to practice in another state. LB 963 was introduced to recognize veterinary technicians in the same manner they are recognized in other states. LB 963 was the result of several months of discussion between the Veterinary Association and animal technicians. It strikes a good balance between the technicians desire for independence and the need for veterinary supervision over their activities. I invite any questions or discussion you might have regarding this amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Discussion on the amendment? Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Madam President, members. Senator Dierks, if I could ask you a question.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Dierks, will you yield?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, I would.

SENATOR RAIKES: In particular, I'm looking at the section on veterinary-client-patient relationship. And as I understood you, you said this was already part of federal law and that the